

Main Street Reisterstown Program

Minutes

Location/Date: Reter's Crabhouse, Reisterstown - August 12, 2013

Attendees: Amy Mantay, Mary Molinaro, Shirley Smith, Ernie Schmidhauser, Jonathan Schwartz, Paul Davolos, Calvin Reter, Irwin Kramer, Kathy Gambrell, Pat Brooks, Dave Powers, Lisa Dibbern, Colleen Brady, Tony Baysmore, Glenn Barnes, Karen Fitchett, Delegate Adrienne Jones, Stephanie Boston

Amy started the meeting with the committees' reports:

Mary said that the **organization committee** will have a meeting this Wednesday evening to review the committees plans and goals and work on the budget to be ready for the application process. She asked Amy to forward any information she has that will be useful from each committee.

Paul said the **economic restructuring committee** met this morning and is putting the finishing touches on a letter that will be mailed to the property owners (about 100) along Main Street. They will be focusing on infrastructure improvements; which is why they are focusing first on property owners and not business owners. At the next meeting, they will be brainstorming on how to attract development along Main Street. Amy said she can contact Tim Murphy from the planning office who used to work with the state's Main Street program and has a background in the economic development aspect to see if he can attend the meeting which will be held Monday the 19th at 10am. Amy shared the brochure which has been developed and is at the printer that will be mailed along with the letters to the property owners as well as to be used by Paul and his committee when visiting them.

Amy said that the **promotion committee** met last Monday the 5th in the evening and discussed fall events and holiday events to highlight Main Street. They were focusing on September until Thanksgiving and are using the tagline "Fall in Love with Reisterstown." They discussed having Sidewalk Sales during the Reisterstown Festival weekend, hand out fliers at the information booth, or walk around the festival handing out fliers. The Clean Up committee will be walking along at the end of the parade cleaning the street as they go, September 7th. October may include a trick or treating event on the Saturday before Halloween(26th) from 2-4pm, a possible parade, the cemetery committee will have "ghost tours." Terry Reising along with Peter Kirks are thinking of organizing an Historic Walking Tour of Main Street. Calvin suggested that Amy check with Nick at Chartley Liquors to see whether the Chartley Shopping Center will be hosting a trick or treating event like they have in the past with prizes for costumes. Amy said their committee was thinking about a "door decorating" contest for the businesses with prizes. She said they are also talking about bringing back the "Buy Local" program with possibly a bigger discount, having something to go along with the Luminary Event the Cemetery Committee is planning in November, and participating with the national "Small Business Friday" program the day after Thanksgiving. Colleen volunteered to chair the committee and will be approved at the next monthly meeting August 20th. Karen suggested doing something that joins "uptown" and "downtown" Reisterstown. She feels like there has always been a disconnect between the two areas. Discussed doing a "window painting" by art students at the schools on the interested merchants with store fronts on Main Street and possibly some of the vacant stores to dress up Main Street.

Irwin said that the **design committee** participated with the walk along Main Street to document the inventory of buildings. Several people participated for a few blocks and Amy said the staff of the planning office will complete the rest. Mary said that she added a column to the spreadsheet of property owners and business owners to enter the historic designation and Amy will let her know the 5

or 6 properties which have National Landmark status like the Ski Shoppe and Cemetery. Delegate Jones said that she chairs the Capital Budget committee at the state level and has some federal funds available for projects in addition to grants of the past. Amy said she just had a meeting within the planning office and Reisterstown is at the top of the list. It is necessary for a request to be made from the county executive's office to the state to acquire the funds. Irwin said he'll be happy to take advantage of funds which can assist with our 3 pronged goal of creating an attractive "Southern Gateway" near his office and Reters where we are meeting, at the "Northern Gateway" where the Y going up to Butler Road or off on 140 toward Westminster, and at the intersection for Cockeys Mill Road at the Middle School which needs a lot of help. While we understand her money is for the entire state, getting started on any one of the projects would let the townspeople know that our efforts are making a difference. Irwin said that at the last meeting it was estimated that the three ideas would cost between \$15M and \$20M. Amy said that she can expect over the next month to move the conversation forward. Once the county sets their goals, a letter will be sent to the state requesting funds. Irwin said that besides the public funds, he will be looking to encourage private investment as well as completing projects with volunteer "sweat equity." Calvin complimented Irwin on the work he has done at his property. Irwin pointed out the efforts that can be seen in front of his property can be something we encourage other property owners to do. Mary suggested that should property owners express interest and need a little help, maybe we can organize volunteers like we do on the "Main Street Clean Up Days" to go to their properties and put in a few hours. The work on Saturday the 5th at the Cemetery was noticeable. The masons from the Ionic Lodge on Main Street worked very hard and accomplished a lot clearing and preparing the bricks for reuse working along with the other volunteers and are looking for service projects. Irwin is looking for landscapers to join his committee. He also reached out to Greenberg Gibbons regarding the stone that may be available as they do the demolition work for Foundry Row. He is calling his property "Law Offices of Ebaugh House" to respect the history of the building and encourages others to do the same as they are custodians of these historic buildings. They are looking for a signature element that uniquely identifies our town and differences that don't have to be highly expensive. We talked about the mile markers in front of the Schuster Home next to Long & Foster as well as the other one up near Butler and Hanover Road and the "Brown Site" sign which was part of a state and national program that may not be in existence anymore (from the 1970s). Calvin said that we used to have a "Reisterstown Historic Association" that Carol Pollack started back in the '70s. Discussed historic plaques on homes like Brad Knatz put on the front of his property where the Baltimore Thrift shop is operating. Brad told Amy that the cost was about \$110. It may be something we want to consider after the inventory is completed and we can identify specific historic properties.

Dan is out of town and the **clean, safe, and green committee** did not meet this morning. However, Amy talked about the August Clean Up Day being very successful. Pat said there were about 10 people who participated. The next one will happen at the end of the parade to start the Reisterstown Festival.

Calvin asked Amy to give an update on the meeting with the director of planning with respect to the streetscape. Amy said she met with Andrea and they have a plan to take to the county executive and are still working out the details of what the county will do to maintain the sidewalk. We should not at this time do anything as volunteers on the bricks. Amy took pictures with her staff and documented all the locations with missing or misplaced bricks to turn in her report.

Calvin asked Amy to talk about the walk to identify the historic properties and when it will be completed. Amy explained that her staff will finish the rest of the properties. The volunteers with her staff completed from Harryman House to Glyndon Drive and then back up the other side to Cockeys Mill

Road. The properties are being identified as “contributing” and given a MHIP-xxxx number and those properties are eligible for tax credits or “non-contributing” which will not be eligible for tax credits.

Ernie reported on the National Night Out (NNO) event which was very successful despite the chance of rain. There were 357 people who signed in as they entered and Mary said 500 people were given Chicken Nuggets by the end of the event. There lots of informative booths, music by a DJ and games for kids to enjoy. This was only the 2nd time we joined with Country Club Estates Community Association and the first time with Reisterstown Improvement Association. He is looking to have the same type of program next year with all of us working together and will be starting initial planning in October. He encouraged anyone interested to join the committee. Main Street had a booth and Kathy said they handed out Buy Local coupons and found that about ½ of those who stopped had heard of or attended Music on Main Street and ½ of them said they were just hearing about it. She thought it was nice to have the booth.

Kathy gave an update on Music on Main Street and said it has been quite a success with more than 600 people at the last concert. She was disappointed to have to cancel last Friday due to the weather. Right now, the make up dates are July 12th will happen September 6th and the August 5th may happen September 27th. She will let us know when everything is confirmed. We should have 4 more concerts.

Karen asked about the Gathering. She attended two of the events and thinks it would be really good for Reisterstown. We discussed the difficulty has been with respect the beer and wine for the event and getting a location to hold it. The property owners have concern about the drinking liability. Amy is still looking for a location. She agreed that it is a very organized event with them providing food, drink, music, security, spot-a-pot, and cleanup. Kathy said she felt we could hold the event contacting the trucks on our own so we should try to make it happen. Glenn said maybe if they are booked for Friday nights, we should think of Saturday from 3pm-8pm. Mary said just make sure not to pick October 12th which is The Corn Roast.

Calvin reminded everyone that Chartley Homeowners Association is having a Crab Feast at the American Legion Hall on Route 140 on September 21st from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Tickets are \$32 per person or a table of eight for \$224. Tickets can be purchased from Ernie, Calvin or Mary.

Tony reminded us to keep Stevenson University in the loop. They are currently using shuttles to take their students between campuses as well as to shopping locations. We might try to get them to come up to Reisterstown as a shuttle stop for their students to eat, drink and shop.

Calvin said he met with the new minister at Reisterstown United Methodist Church, Reverend Vivian C. McCarthy, to talk about Reisterstown.

Summer events

Clean-ups –September 7th , 9am – 11am.

Following parade

The Gathering – Pending

Music on Main Street –June 21st – August 23rd 7- 9:30pm

Lawn at Franklin Middle School

Farmers Market –Sundays, June 2nd to October 6th 10am-2pm

358-360 Main Street

Calendar of Events/Promotions

Need September events by August 15

Facebook/website (on-going)

Over 430 friends view our Facebook posts! Double the number we had in May

The next meeting will be held at Reter's Crabhouse, Monday, Aug. 26 , 2013 at 10am.